



# News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Office of Inspector General  
Washington, DC 20546

Roberta L. Gross  
Inspector General  
(Phone: 202-358-1220)

For Release  
October 25, 1999

Samuel A. Maxey  
Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
(Phone: 202-358-1233)

RELEASE: 2000-008

## **GUILTY PLEA IN MOON ROCK SCHEME**

On October 22, 1999, Ronald Trochelmann of Atlanta, Georgia entered a plea of guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Trochelmann admitted trying to auction an alleged lunar sample that he claimed was obtained during the Apollo 12 mission. Investigation determined the alleged lunar sample was not genuine.

Trochelmann and his brother Brian Trochelmann were indicted on November 12, 1998, in the Southern District of New York. Sentencing is scheduled in early 2000.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations. The prosecution was handled by Teresa Pesce, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of New York.

- End -